

News

Macomb County
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Macomb County earns three small business development awards

MOUNT CLEMENS, Mich. – Macomb County's Planning & Economic Development Department captured three awards for its success at nurturing small businesses.

The county received the "Recognition of Excellence – Leadership Awards" from the Michigan Small Business & Technology Development Center (MI-SBTDC), a network of 12 regional offices and more than 30 satellite offices providing counseling and training to small business owners and entrepreneurs throughout Michigan.

Macomb County hosts the MI-SBTDC Region 10 office, covering Macomb and St. Clair counties. MI-SBTDC's awards recognized the individual efforts of two employees and the department as a whole for being an outstanding host for 2005.

Lisa Hunter received a leadership award for intake/administrative personnel for developing a system to quickly match clients with the appropriate SBTDC services. Hunter, a business counseling aide with the department for six years, is the first contact for an average of 240 potential clients each month. Her system became part of a state training program for intake workers.

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Robert Tess, program manager for economic development, received special recognition for his success in helping Macomb County businesses thrive. Over the last two years, Tess has worked with companies who invested more than \$95 million in Macomb County while retaining or creating more than 1,630 jobs. Tess, who has a master's degree in Public Administration, has been with the department for 19 years.

Under his guidance, there have been six "Tool & Die Recovery Zones" established in the county. These zones work as an incentive to help local manufacturing companies stay competitive in a global marketplace. Tess also was recognized this year as "Partner of the Year" by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) for the impact his expertise has on manufacturing firms throughout the region.

Macomb County's Planning & Economic Development Department was recognized as the "Outstanding SBTDC Partner/Host for 2005." The department was cited for its exemplary record for developing and expanding small businesses and its ability to cultivate regional cooperation with the Detroit Regional Economic Partnership, Macomb Community College, Michigan Business and Professional Association, Michigan Works!, U.S. Department of Commerce, Export Assistance, MEDC, Michigan Manufacturing Technology Center, Michigan Minority Business Development Council, Automation Alley and the Southeast Michigan Council of Government.

About MI-SBTDC

With headquarters at Grand Valley State University, MI-SBTDC provides a full range of services for a variety of small businesses that are emerging and growing throughout Michigan. It is funded through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration.

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